

Attorney Docket No.:      **IRF-0041**  
Inventors:                **David M. Thomas**  
Serial No.:               **10/536,534**  
Filing Date:             **June 27, 2005**  
Page 2

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electrically conducting carbon composite comprising a reducible organo-metallic complex dispersed or dissolved in a mixture of binder and carbon, said reducible organo-metallic complex being added in an amount sufficient to form at least a monolayer of metal on all free surfaces of the composite when the carbon composite is subjected to continued cure and pyrolysis in a reducing gas atmosphere.

Claim 2 (original): The electrically conducting carbon composite of claim 1 wherein the reducible organo-metallic complex comprises zinc, nickel, copper, silver, molybdenum, platinum or palladium.

Claim 3 (original): The electrically conducting carbon composite of claim 1 wherein the reducible organo-metallic complex comprises molybdenum.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for producing an electrically conducting carbon composite comprising dispersing or dissolving a reducible organo-metallic complex in a mixture of binder and carbon, said reducible organo-metallic complex being added in an amount sufficient to form at least a monolayer of metal on all free surfaces of the composite; and subjecting the carbon composite to continued cure and pyrolysis in a reducing gas atmosphere to form at least a monolayer of metal on all free surfaces of the composite.

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Page 3

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method of claim 4 wherein the reducible organo-metallic complex comprises zinc, nickel, copper, silver, molybdenum, platinum or palladium.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of claim 4 wherein the reducible organo-metallic complex comprises molybdenum.

Claim 7 (original): A fuel cell separator comprising the carbon composite of claim 1.